

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

August 25, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Everywhere I go, I'm talking to citizens about my work to implement my *Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow* economic plan to grow our state's economy.

You've heard me say before, that it's the most comprehensive, aggressive economic plan of any state in the nation. It's a plan that's pro-business and pro-people. It will help businesses grow and create jobs and ensure that families have affordable health care and great education for their kids and that they can afford insurance or gas for their cars. It's no secret to business people: you have to be competitive *and* invest to grow.

Earlier this week, the W.E. Upjohn Institute, an independent, nonpartisan research organization released a study that reinforces that very notion.

The Upjohn study tells us what we already know ... that Michigan's economic struggles are the result of a struggling auto industry, not our business tax climate.

Simply eliminating business taxes and slashing public services will hurt, not help, our economy.

The study concludes that we must diversify our economy and invest in the education and training of our workforce.

And that's exactly what we're doing.

Through our new standards for grades K-8 and the new high schools curriculum, we are raising expectations in our schools.

And once the legislature passes my \$4,000 new Merit Award scholarship, every student in Michigan will have access to affordable education beyond high school.

Our 21st Century Jobs Fund is investing \$2 billion in diversifying our economy in cutting edge technologies, including life sciences, advanced manufacturing, alternative energy and homeland security and defense.

505 companies, researchers, scientists and entrepreneurs applied for the first round of funding and 179 finalists remain. In just two weeks, we will announce the recipients of the first \$100 million. All to diversify our economy.

But we don't have to wait two weeks to see results of this economic plan.

Last week, I was in the U.P. where I attended a grand opening ceremony for AgSolutions, a biodiesel production facility. In the past 6 months alone nine ethanol or biodiesel have been announced or are in production in Michigan.

And earlier this week, dedication ceremonies were held at Presbyterian Villages in Redford – the state's first Greenhouse style nursing home. Upgrading long term care facilities is a key component of our Jobs Today program putting people to work today.

Clearly, we are working the plan and the plan is working, but the Upjohn study reminds us of another reality as well. Our economic problems were not created overnight and they won't be solved overnight and we can't leave our people behind if we want to grow our economy.

So, I will continue to work hard going anywhere and doing anything to bring jobs to Michigan. I will continue to invest in the things that matter most - in our people and our future.

Thank you for listening.